

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of July 16, 2018**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Hill-Eubanks.

I. Roll Call: Present for the meeting were Rhodes, Ruttenberg, Brown, and Hill-Eubanks.

II. Set/Adjust Agenda:

III. Public Participation: None

IV. Emerald Ash Borer committee: Ruttenberg explained the efforts being undertaken in town to prevent the tree pest, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), from causing widespread damage to the town's ash trees. The Select Board approved the formation of a committee to educate the public and assist in making a management plan and decisions. The plan could include that forester Russ Barrett would look at dead or dying trees, and the Scouts would identify local ash trees. Economics and tree biology will be covered at the forum. Safety is also a factor to consider. Decisions to be made will include whether to take down, or try to save, any trees of value. In order to prevent the spread of the EAB, firewood should not be moved from town to town. A public forum is scheduled for August 21. On August 26, a training will be held at the United Church with the Boy Scout Troop, and possibly other Scout troops.

Brown moved to appoint Ruttenberg as the PC representative to the EAB committee. Rhodes seconded. **Motion approved 4-0-0.**

V. Town Plan Update

- a. Public survey results: The results from the PC's public survey have been received from planner Saxton. A request has been made for the report. PC will distribute the report when requested and post a link to it online. A copy will be sent to the Town Manager and Select Board as a courtesy.

- b. Flood Resilience chapter: Commissioners reviewed the first draft of the Flood Resilience chapter sent by planner Saxton. Suggested that the Introduction explain the organization of the chapter to clarify that the policies are at the end of each chapter. Look over policies for next meeting. Look at state guidance and NCC recommendations on riparian buffers. Retrieve missing information that was cited in the text.

VI. Approval of Minutes: May 21, 2018, June 18, 2018. Rhodes moved to approve minutes from previous two meetings. Ruttenberg seconded. **Approved 3-0-1.**

VII. Other Business:

VIII. Next Regular Meeting: August 20, 2018.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.